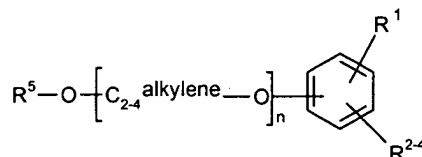


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A monomer which comprises a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with ~~an acid labile protecting~~ a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

2. (currently amended): A monomer of formula (1)



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ethylene group;

R²⁻⁴ are independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, halogen, or hydrocarbyloxy;

R⁵ is ~~an acid labile protecting~~ a poly-aryl methane protecting group; and

n is 2 to 10.

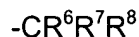
3. (original): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R¹ is a CH=CH₂, CH=CHCH₃, or C(CH₃)=CH₂ group.

4. (original): A monomer according to any of Claims 2 or 3 wherein [-C₂₋₄alkylene-O-]_n is [-CH₂CH₂O-]_n, [-CH₂CH(CH₃)O-]_n, [-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂O-]_n or [-CH₂CH(C₂H₅)O-]_n

5. (previously presented): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R²⁻⁴ are hydrogen.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): A monomer according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group of formula:



wherein:

R⁶ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl group; and R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently optionally substituted aryl groups, or R⁷ & R⁸ are optionally substituted aryl groups which may be linked to form an optionally substituted ring

8. (currently amended): A monomer according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~acid-labile~~ poly-aryl methane protecting group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

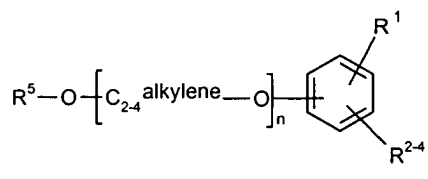
9. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a polymer support comprising polymerisation of a monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with an ~~acid-labile~~ a poly-aryl methane protecting group, under conditions to produce cross-linking.

10. (currently amended): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more one or more monomers selected from styrenes, ~~for example styrene, hydroxystyrene, methoxystyrene, methylstyrene, hydroxymethylstyrene and chloromethylstyrene,~~ esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, ~~for example methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate and hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate,~~ and acrylamides, ~~for example N-methyl acrylamide and N-methylol (meth)acrylamide.~~

11. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more cross linking monomers, and one or more monomers selected from styrenes, esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, or acrylamides.

12. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of divinyl benzene, and styrene.

13. (currently amended): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is a monomer ~~according to Claim 2 of formula (1)~~



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ethylene group;

R²⁻⁴ are independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, halogen, or hydrocarbyloxy;

R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group; and

n is 2 to 10.

14. (currently amended): A polymer support which comprises protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains attached to a cross-linked polymer wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains are protected with ~~an acid labile~~ a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended): A polymer support according to Claim 45 ~~14~~ wherein the ~~acid labile~~ poly-aryl methane protecting group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

17. (currently amended): A polymer support ~~obtainable~~ obtained by the process of Claim 9.

18. (currently amended): ~~Use of~~ A process for solid phase organic synthesis which comprises deprotecting a protected solid support, and performing solid phase organic synthesis on the deprotected solid support, wherein the protected solid support is a polymer support according to Claim 14 ~~in solid phase organic synthesis.~~

19. (new): A process according to claim 10, wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerizable unit is copolymerized in the presence of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, hydroxystyrene, methoxystyrene, methylstyrene, hydroxymethylstyrene, chloromethyl styrene, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, N-methyl acrylamide and N-methylol(meth)acrylamide.